

Lawyer says Trump Tower in Moscow considered during campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's personal lawyer confirmed Monday that the president's company pursued a project in Moscow during the Republican primary, but said that the plan was abandoned "for a variety of business reasons." The attorney, Michael Cohen, also said he sent an email to the spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin as

part of the potential deal. The confirmation that the Trump Organization was actively considering doing business in Russia during the presidential election could provide special counsel Robert Mueller with motivation for probing Trump's personal and business finances, a line Trump has warned him not to cross. Cohen disclosed details

of the deal in a statement to the House intelligence committee, which like Mueller is investigating Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia.

In the statement, Cohen said that he worked on the real estate proposal with Felix Sater, a Russia-born

associate who claimed to have connections in Moscow.

The discussions about the potential development occurred in fall 2015, months after Trump had declared his candidacy, and ended early last year when Cohen determined that the project was not feasible, according to Cohen's statement. Cohen also disclosed that Trump was personally aware of the

deal, signing a letter of intent and discussing it with Cohen on two other occasions.

In a statement, the Trump Organization emphasized that the licensing deal "was not significantly advanced," noting that no site or financing materialized during the negotiations.

The company also said it was never paid any fees as part of the deal, and the

signed letter of intent was nonbinding.

"To be clear, the Trump Organization has never had any real estate holdings or interests in Russia," the company said.

On Monday, *The New York Times* reported on an email in which Sater appeared to boast that the real estate deal could help Trump get elected.



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